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STATEMENT

In opposition to
H.B. 6932 - An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave
H.B. 6784 - An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave
H.B. 6791 - An Act Concerning Workers' Wages At Large Corporations

Connecticut General Assembly
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 5, 2015

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the region's economic development leader and the City of Hartford's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions as well as the municipalities of North Central Connecticut. Our mission is to ensure that the region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, play, work, and raise a family.

Whether the \$2.5 billion budget deficit projected over the next biennium or the nearly \$70 billion in unfunded obligations, our state faces substantial fiscal challenges both in the short and long term. With Connecticut's economy beginning to show signs of recovery in the wake of the great recession, our state's policymakers should redouble their efforts on crafting policies that will support economic growth and encourage job expansion. Legislation that will worsen our state's fiscal health by making it less competitive should be rejected by anyone committed to creating jobs in Connecticut. For this reason, the MetroHartford Alliance urges the members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee to oppose H.B. 6932 - An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave, H.B. 6784 - An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave and H.B. 6791 - An Act Concerning Workers' Wages At Large Corporations.

Legislation like H.B. 6932, H.B. 6784, and H.B. 6791 makes Connecticut less competitive in a global marketplace and sends a message to Connecticut's existing employers that we are not a hospitable place in which to remain or grow. Adding and expanding employer mandates serves only to make running a business in Connecticut a more costly, difficult endeavor, particularly when compared to other states.

We encourage businesses and organizations to offer competitive wages and benefits that will help them to compete in the marketplace while attracting and retaining a quality workforce. The private sector must be allowed the flexibility to develop creative solutions that meet the needs of both employers and employees. Short-sighted, burdensome wage and benefits mandates imposed by the legislature will only serve to reinforce the view that Connecticut is not a place to establish or grow a business.

As an economic development organization we ask you to work with us to help Connecticut stand out as a premier place to do business and create jobs, and take steps to help us strengthen our economy. At this time of intense global competition for jobs, capital and talent, we cannot overstate the importance of sending a pro-growth message to incumbent businesses considering expansion as well as those looking to relocate. Increasing business costs by adding and expanding wage and benefit mandates is the last thing we should consider.

Competing for Jobs, Capital & Talent
www.metrohartford.com

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony and encourage the members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee to oppose H.B. 6932, H.B. 6784, and H.B. 6791.